

Painting marks fuels pride

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer



A reservist assigned to Supply Support Battalion Two (SSB 2), and a Sailor, assigned to NAS Sigonella's Fuels Division, paint the NAS Sigonella Fuels Division logo on the wall situated at the entrance to the division. The petty officer's along with other reservists from SSB 2 took time out of their schedule to paint the logo and an entire wall for the division.

If you have ever run on the back perimeter road at Naval Air Station Sigonella, you would probably admit that there is not much to look at, other than the weeds and the occasional snake. Thanks to the skills of some reservists, those kicking it out on the perimeter road have something new to look at.

Due to the efforts of reservists like BM3 David Taxson, a fueler from Supply Support Battalion two (SSB 2), Fuels Com-Fuels, page 8

ITT takes you to Lentini

JOSN Marie Quilon
Staff Writer

A town nestled between two parallel hills in the fertile Catania plain rises up 56 meters above sea level, on a flat area and connects to the S. Leonardo River. The land echos memories of past inhabitants and conquerors that helped shape the tourist attraction of today.

Lentini, originally known as Leontinoi, or "Freckled Lion", is the second oldest city in Sicily. Contrary to visitors' misconception of Lentini being known for it's gold, It is actually is an agriculture center. The major produce includes wheat, citrus fruits and olives.

Perhaps the fertile land it occupies is one reason why the Sicilian town was widely conquered throughout history.

The town was originally founded in 729 B.C. by the Greeks when it was called Leontinoi. In the 6th century it was dominion of the tyrants from Siracusa, then set free in 427 B.C. It was freed in 427 B.C. thanks to the Athenians, then devastated by the Siracusans and the Carthaginians in 406 B.C. and sacked by the Romans in 214 B.C. In the 7th century, under the Byzantine it was one of the most important state properties. Earthquakes in 1542 and 1693 strongly damaged the village and its economy. The town was later rebuilt in the same area.

Some monuments are artistically very important to see such as: Mother Church of St. Alfio (18 century), the church of the Holy Trinity, the ruins of the Castellaccio which date back the 13th century and the Archaeological Museum.

Amongst the most illustrious personalities to men-
History, page 8

Chief of Installations visits Sigonella

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

The admiral in charge of all Naval Base facilities worldwide recently visited NAS Sigonella during his European Tour aboard Navy Installations.

Rear Adm. Christopher Weaver, Chief of Naval Installations (CNI) and Commander, Naval District Washington stopped at Sigonella and to tour the flight line, Supply warehouse, Military Working Dogs Unit, MWR clubs, gym and swimming pool and had lunch at the galley on NAS II. He also toured NAS I, Maranai and 205 Housing complexes, the new kindergarten, Stephen Decatur High School, the food court and the commissary.

"This installation reflects the Navy's current trend towards an ability to surge and to support national objectives on short notice. There have been a lot of great timely investments in the infrastructure here. When you take good infrastructure and put it with great Sailors, you generate a tremendous product."

According to Weaver, NAS Sigonella is on the right track with respect to national DOD goals about positioning armed forces around the world to fight the war on terrorism.

During his visit, Weaver wanted to point out the CNI, page 8



Rear Adm. Christopher Weaver talks with a member of NASSIG about Stephen Decatur School during his visit to Sigonella. Sigonella was just one stop on his European Tour of Navy installations.

NEMOD weather guessers provide support for fleet



A Sailor preps a pilot regarding weather before his flight. NEMOD provides weather information for pilots from take off to landing.

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

Before take off a lot of work goes into preparation. The plane is refueled, checked and prepped for flight, but that is not all that goes on. Pilots must chart their course, every step of the way to ensure the smoothest flight possible.

To chart their course, they must go to weather specialists who work at Naval European Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment (NEMOD). NEMOD always has three personnel on duty 24 hours, seven days a week. Sailors qualified as oceanographer technicians, weather observers, and forecasters are trained to answer any questions that come their way.

Pilots are provided weather updates from take-off to landing so that they can plot their courses and avoid bad weather. NEMOD also provides weather information enroute or an additional landing site if bad weather occurs.

NEMOD also provides operational support for the Tactical Support Center (TSC), patrol squadrons and the whole European theater.

During their hourly weather observations, they look for signs of severe weather. Reviewing satellite displays provides them with

more information and weather warnings.

"We are very active in every war. Since we are the hub of the Med, all flights on the way to war, fly through here and we provide them with weather information," stated AGC (AW) Eileen Duncan, NEMOD Leading Chief Petty Officer. During Operation Enduring Freedom, the workload increased, now they are still recovering from the number of flights that came in, according to AG3 Nadine Nagamatsu, Weather Observer and Oceanography Technician.

AG1 Charles Doss, Forecasting Duty Officer, views his job as a challenge. "My job is dealing with unpredictable weather. Every time I think I got the weather figured out, it changes on me. It is important to be on top of everything because without knowing the weather conditions, planes can not take off."

Keeping their heads in the clouds is not the only job title for NEMOD Sailors. They also actively support Anti-submarine Warfare missions in the theatre. By studying the ocean and the ocean floor they provide environmental tactical information, search for hostile or friendly submarines and keep an eye on ship traffic. "Oceanography gives AG's a different perspective of their job. Every AG should learn

NEMOD, page 8

Today's Hometown Weather

Winter Park, FL.



High 86° F - Low 74° F
Isolated Thunderstorms



Direct Line

Capt. Ken Bitar
NASSIG
Executive Officer

We have had a lot of distinguished visitors come to NAS Sigonella lately. Duvall, Sinise, SECNAV and recently, the prospective Commander, Naval Installations, RADM Christopher Weaver. We have showcased various departments and

tenant commands to our visitors and they were all very impressed.

I want to share a little with what RADM Weaver said when he was here. Basically, he really liked what he saw here and what our Sailors are doing to support the Fleet. He received several briefs and was given a tour of the BEQ, MWR facilities, OPS facilities, NEX/Commissary, and more. He ate lunch with the new chief selectees and junior officers and shared his vision for a consolidation of the Navy.

He stated that we should be smarter in all aspects of what we do. He added that we have to look outside of the box and enable our Sailors to think creatively. How we conduct our “back shops” today will affect the front lines tomorrow. He pointed out that the Navy is right where it needs to be in the European theater. As a member of the string of pearls (including Rota and Souda Bay), NAS Sigonella plays an integral role in Naval operations for years to come. He believes we are more than capable to handle anything that comes our way!

I want to remind the department heads, Div-Os, LCPOs and LPOs to look at your shops. How can your “back shop” help you get your job done? What I mean by the back shop is your cost overhead (manpower, contracts, and infrastructure). How can your Sailors do their job? You need to be an enabler so they can fully utilizing the skills that they were taught. We have a lot of smart people here on base and we need to tap into them. Let your Sailors think “out of the box” and allow them to be creative and support them. They might have the solutions that you need to do your job!

Henry Ford said, “coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

Our Sailors are our most precious asset. We must mentor, motivate, train, educate, and support our Sailors. We need to help them in whatever way we can so they can do their job more effectively and more efficiently. Every Sailor has a “toolbox” of experiences and training. We must capitalize on these. The United States has the most powerful Navy in the world. Its mission is to win at war. It has done so today. It will only do that tomorrow if we train our juniors.



The Medical Service Corps 56th B-day

The history of the Medical Service Corps includes the history of its predecessor, the Navy Hospital Corps. During World War I, the number of warrant officers in the Hospital Corps increased significantly and 65 Pharmacists and Chief Pharmacists were given temporary commissions in the Medical Corps of the Navy. Although a few of these officers retained their temporary commissions following the end of the war, the majority reverted to their prior status.

The need for an all officer category composed of individuals trained in administrative, professional, and scientific specialties traditionally allied with medicine had long been recognized. During World War II 1429 officers were given temporary appointments in the Hospital Corps during the war. In addition, a total of 845 pharmacists, optometrists, and other specialists and scientists allied to medicine and dentistry were given temporary appointments as Naval Reserve officers. The vital role played by these two groups of officers in the accomplishment of the wartime mission of the Navy Medical Department further emphasized the need for a permanent officer category to com-

pliment and supplement the existing officer corps than compromising the Medical Department.

The Medical Service Corps was authorized 4 August 1947 as a staff corps of the Navy by the Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act of 1947. The Navy Medical Service Corps was created with four specialty sections: Supply and Administration, Optometry, Allied Sciences, and Pharmacy. The authorized personnel strength of the Corps was limited to 20percent of the number of Medical Corps officers.

Today, the Medical Service Corps is the most highly diversified Corps within the Navy Medical Department. An integral part of Navy medicine, the Medical Service Corps is comprised of a multidisciplinary team of commissioned naval officers in clinical, scientific, and administrative health care fields. The Medical Service Corps now has more than 3,500 active duty and reserve officers in the grades of ensign to rear admiral. Health care scientists and clinical care specialists make up about 60 percent of the total Corps, serving in 22 different specialties performing countless duties on multiple platforms continuing the mission, which was identified over 52 years ago. Health care administrators comprise the remaining 40 percent. Medical Service Corps officers serve in more than 250 Naval and medical commands throughout the world. About 65 percent serve in facilities delivering direct patient care and 35 percent serve in operational units, training and research commands, occupational and preventive medicine units, material and logistic support commands, and headquarters commands.

Here in Sigonella, 24 Medical Service Corps officers are assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital and 10 to the Navy Environmental Protection Mobile Unit - 7 (NEPMU-7), with the following specialties: Clinical Psychology, Dietetics/Food Management, Entomology, Environmental Health, Financial Management, Health Care Administration, Health Care Information Systems, Industrial Hygiene, Material Logistics, Medical Technology, Microbiology, Optometry, Patient Administration, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistants, Plans Operations & Medical Intelligence and Podiatry.

How to file a vehicle claim

By Barbara Perotti Casagrande, NLSO EURSWA

The Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) provides the following information to help U.S. service members and DoD civilians know how and when to file a claim.

Private vehicles are not covered simply because you are stationed overseas. However, you may file a Personnel Claims Act (PCA) claims for vehicle loss or damage that occurred while your vehicle was being shipped under orders, while located at your authorized quarters, or onboard a military installation. If your car is stolen from your authorized quarters (either in government housing or out on the Italian economy) and NLSO determines that the theft was not due in any part to your own negligence, you may file a claim. NLSO Claims Office will investigate and consider all the surrounding circumstances and decide each case on its own merits.

When NLSO adjudicates your PCA claim for your stolen property, you should keep in mind that there is one important difference between NLSO and private insurance. Private insurance will often pay the full replacement cost of stolen property. PCA pays the fair market value of the missing items. In order to determine the fair market value the NLSO will depreciate your property according to a commercially accepted schedule.

You may also claim loss if your property is damaged or destroyed due to flood, hurricane, or other exceptional circumstances, except vandalism, which is covered in extremely rare circumstances.

If your car is stolen somewhere other than your authorized quarters or because you were negligent in any way (doors unlocked, windows open, etc.) you are not eligible for payment. NLSO does not pay for rental car fees,

insurance fees, road taxes, or any other fees that result from your loss.

In case of theft from inside your car, you may file a claim if the theft occurred at your authorized quarters on a military installation and is not due to your own negligence. Evidence of forced entry into the vehicle is required before a claim is payable. NLSO Claims will only pay for items that would “normally” be left in a car.

A Military Claims Act (MCA) claims arises out of an accident between a U.S. citizen and a service member or member of the civilian component who at the time of the accident was “within the scope of his/her federal employment”. So, if you have an accident with a U.S. Government vehicle while you are driving your vehicle you may file a claim with the U.S. Sending State Office (USSSO) in Rome, Italy.

MCA claims are received and assembled by NLSO Sigonella. Then NLSO will forward MCA claims to the USSSO for adjudication and payment.

MCA claims may reimburse a reasonable amount for rental car expenses necessitated by an accident rendering a private vehicle inoperable. Rental car expenses will be awarded only when alternate transportation is not available and in most cases no more than 14 days of rental car will be awarded.

If you find your car damaged by an unknown vehicle, your claim will be denied. A private vehicle is not covered simply because it is on board of a military installation. It is not important where the accident occurs. A MCA can be paid only if a service member or a member of the civilian component “within the scope of his/her federal employment” damaged your private vehicle.

If you need to file a claim or ask questions on claims, please call the NLSO Claims Office at DSN 624-6327 or 624-5258.

Secretary of the Navy Now Online with NMCI

By JO1 Class Craig P. Strawser, SECNAV Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNS) — The Navy and Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) reached a milestone this week, with the successful installation of the NMCI system for the Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson and his staff.

Johnson, a strong supporter of the NMCI program, said, “NMCI is transformational in its scope. The establishment of a common IT system throughout the naval services is an important

part of our effort to improve the business process and make the organization more efficient and effective. The CNO (Chief of Naval Operations), Commandant and I are proud of the advances that have been made, and are committed to this important program.”

Although several commands have already switched over to NMCI, and many are currently in the process, the transition by the SECNAV’s office is a key step in the program. The Navy and Marine Corps leadership is fully behind this program and ready to lead the

services into the future.

Darrel Summers, the NMCI Senior Deployment Lead who oversees the Pentagon department, took personal responsibility for getting Johnson’s system up and running.

“I have a great team here at the Pentagon,” said Summers. “When we realized it was time to establish this account, we all wanted to ensure there were as little problems as possible. The entire NMCI team is driven to provide the most customer satisfaction possible.”

Some thoughts on honor

By Chaplain Thom Dansak
Command Chaplain

The Navy has for several years pushed the idea of core values: Courage, Honor, Commitment. These are values that can and do improve much in the life of Sailors and in the life of the Navy community as well. In recent weeks I have become sensitized to one of those values, the core value of honor. In some ways, honor is the easiest value to live by, but it is often the core value that can most easily be abused. Honor is reliant on individual behavior of the simplest kind—keeping one’s word. Over the years, I have noticed that there is a certain “casualness” now given to keeping one’s word. People say many things without really meaning them. Words, I believe, are important and can truly indicate the level of honor that I seek to live by. Allow me to give you a few examples.

Whenever we borrow something, we often say “I will return it” or “I will pay you back.” In looking around my office, I notice books I have borrowed that are still here and not with their real owner. Some might say “That’s a small matter.” But all of us have lent things, maybe even lent money, and the borrower has not come through with his or her promise to repay or return the cash or the item. This same lack of honor can be seen in more serious ways. For example, whenever Sailors and others intentionally write bad checks or fail to pay their consumer loans, they bring “dishonor” to their names. By writing that check or using that credit card, we make a statement. “I will pay...you can

trust me.” These are issues of honor.

Another phrase that demonstrates the core value of honor is “I will take care of it.” Even if that phrase is only implied, it demonstrates “honor.” The leave form or pay problem being processed at PSD, the piece of equipment being worked on at an AIMD work center, the plane being repaired in the hangar...all of them have people who say or imply to another person “I will take care of it.” “I will fix it right, process it right, do it right.” When a person follows through and really does the job, it demonstrates honor and trustworthiness.

Honor has far-reaching consequences. As a chaplain, I have prepared many Sailors for marriage. I am overwhelmed by a simple phrase that is used in the marriage ceremony: “till death do us part.” I wonder how deeply people mean this and do they realize their honor is on the line. In fact, I personally focus a great deal of attention on those words during my pre-marriage counseling. I have also baptized many a child and in the Catholic baptism ceremony the parents are asked to promise three times to raise their children according to the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church. Do they hear what is being asked? Do they hear what they are saying in response. Again, these are examples of phrases that can demonstrate the core value of honor in the lives of those who use them..

Jesus once admonished his followers with this simple bit of advice: “Let your yes mean yes and your no mean know.” He was talking about “honor.” We build our reputation of honor every day...I hope we build it well.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ


Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service

Last Friday of the month 5 p.m.
Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays

Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m.
(NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.



SECURITY BLOTTER

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Aug. 4 - Aug. 10

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 14

Traffic accident with injuries - 1

Car break-ins - 0

DUI - 1

DUI's 2003 - 35

DUI's 2002 - 35

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NAVY NEWS

First ESG ready for deployment

By JO2(SW) McClain Shewman, 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — The Navy's first Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) recently completed its Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) off the coast of Southern California.

The ESG concept was stood-up in September 2002, and since its release, Commander 3rd Fleet (COMTHIRDFLT), in union with First Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), have been heavily engaged in the establishment, manning and training of the largest joint expeditionary strike-capable battle group.

Having completed their final training exercise, ESG-1 is now ready for deployment. The road to success required months of planning, the participation of more than 6,000 Sailors and Marines, and the blending of Navy and Marine Corps assets, such as Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs) and Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs).

"We married strike escorts together with an ARG (Amphibious Ready Group) and a MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit)," said Cmdr. Louis Meier, COMTHIRDFLT Battle Group training coordinator. "This really expands our capabilities."

Working together in various scenarios, the Navy and Marine Corps team overcame many threats and injected troops into a range of locations that wouldn't have been possible with only one military force in the picture.

"We have a strong maritime force, which can be complimented by the strong landing influence from the Marine Corps - our united abilities are complementary," said Capt. Joe Stuyvesant, COMTHIRDFLT assistant chief of staff for Readiness and Training. "When our forces go forward, they will almost always operate, act and fight in a joint environment, so it's critical that we train them accordingly."

"The Marines bring to us a potent striking force. They bring the ability to put boots on the ground when necessary, and they have attack aircraft - Cobras and Harrier jets."

Despite thorough planning and an expert Navy Marine Corps team, many of the scenarios are designed to change at the last minute due to actual events. During one part of the exercise at Camp Pendleton's Red Beach, Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) vehicles launched from USS Germantown (LSD 42) had to push back their landing time due to low visibility on the beach.

Although changes in scheduling like that could create a domino effect, the planners inserted variable back-up plans

for each inject on the chance an event shifted backward, forward or didn't happen at all.

"Constant feedback between [the participants] allows for scenario adjustments that will accurately assess the ESG's concept potential while maximizing the opportunity for success," said Lt. Cmdr. Dave Gaddis, assistant Air Training for COMTHIRDFLT.

Having multiple operations running simultaneously can be a daunting task, but the planners for this JTFEX designed plenty of contingencies for themselves and for the participants.

"We have a Joint Operations Center on USS Peleliu (LHA 5) that brings all the warfare commanders together on one ship along with the Marines. All those things are now working together to form a synergy that expands the capabilities of the composite warfare system," said Meier.

The ESG composition adds to the combat tested ARG and MEU capabilities with increased defenses, strike, power projection, and Special Forces capabilities.

"Unlike a CSG (Carrier Strike Group), an ESG can place significant Marine Corps forces ashore for missions such as Humanitarian Assistance Operations and Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)," said Gaddis.

The role of Commander 3rd Fleet and 1 MEF is to set the stage for this exercise. Then, various scenarios are planned and injected into the JTFEX. Since this is the first JTFEX for an ESG, the developments are tailored specifically to the strike group's capabilities.

"Injects are designed to trigger time sensitive targeting of terrorist capabilities. The injects themselves build a picture of terrorist activity for the ESG commander," said Meier. "No single inject causes action - the intent is for the operational commander to derive the objective of the terrorist and react accordingly."

"The ESG was designed around the changing requirements of the global war on terrorism. Their focus is to provide the Navy and Marine Corps team with additional offensive capabilities and increased agility," he added.

With the JTFEX stamp of approval, ESG1 is now ready for deployment and will bring a new combination of combat assets to meet today's global requirements. The seven ships of ESG 1 - USS Peleliu (LHA 5), USS Germantown (LSD 42), USS Ogden (LPD 5), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Decatur (DDG 73), USS Jarrett (FFG 33), and USS Greenville (SSN 772) - are scheduled to deploy in August 2003.



Open house

Aug. 22

All day long!

Come see our studios
and meet the staff at
your AFN.

'America's Flagship'

Retires After 42 years of
Service

By JOSN Ron Kuzlik, Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs

CORONADO, Calif. (NNS) — 'America's Flagship', USS Constellation (CV 64) was decommissioned Aug. 7 after 41 years, nine months and 11 days of naval service in a ceremony at Naval Air Station North Island.

Former President Ronald Reagan presented a Presidential Flag to the ship in 1981, and tagged Constellation with the nickname 'America's Flagship.'

Coincidentally, the newly commissioned USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) will replace Constellation when it arrives in San Diego next summer.

Lt.j.g. Jenny Krug, combat systems division officer, has been on the crew of a precommissioning unit (PCU), but never part of a decommissioning crew.

"It's really interesting working the opposite side of a PCU," said Krug. "The decommissioning is a sad moment in the life of 'Connie', if you think about the ship's history and all that it's done. But, it's still exciting being here, being a part of the legacy that Constellation has become with all that she has accomplished."

Commissioned at New York Naval Shipyard Oct. 27, 1961, Constellation is the third ship to be christened with the name, and bears the motto "Spirit of the Old, Pride of the New." It has seen service in the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and most recently, returning from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since its commissioning, nearly 120,000 Sailors and Marines have served aboard "America's Flagship." The arresting gear aboard has amassed an impressive 436,000 "traps," or landings.

Connie, as the ship is known to the crew, departed San Diego Nov. 2 for its 21st and final deployment. It arrived in the Arabian Gulf Dec. 17, and remained on station for four months before departing April 17 and returning to San Diego in June.

Constellation was the first to launch air strikes in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Connie subsequently flew more than 1,500 sorties, dropping more than 1.7 million pounds of ordinance on strategic military targets. In addition, Connie produced, packaged and dropped about 600 million leaflets over Iraq, more than 25 for every man, woman, and child in Iraq.

"Connie is an amazing ship," said Ship's Boatswain, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Frost. "It doesn't matter what you wear on your sleeve or what's on your collar, we are a team, 'The Connie Team.' We work together as a team, and we fight together as a team."

That dedication has allowed Constellation to be honored with more than 30 awards, including one Presidential Unit Citation, one Southwest Asia award, two Battle 'E's, seven Armed Forces Expeditionary awards, three Navy Expeditionary Service awards, six Meritorious Unit Commendations, three Navy Unit Commendations, six Vietnam Service Awards, and six Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation (with Palm) for Gallantry.

"Today is a day to be proud of Constellation's crews, both past and present," said commanding officer, Capt. John Miller. "The legacy of Constellation is evident in the pride and history of its crews and mission. I am as proud to have served as commanding officer, as each and every Sailor aboard has the right to say 'I am proud to have served on 'America's Flagship.'"



A three-plane formation of F/A-18 Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Three Two Three (VMFA-323) conducts a flyover of USS Constellation (CV 64) during the ship's decommissioning ceremony.

Navy christens guided-missile destroyer Momsen

Special release from the
U.S. Department of
Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer Momsen will be christened Aug. 9, during an 11 a.m. EDT ceremony at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine.

Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Vice Adm. Albert Konezni will deliver the ceremony's principal address for the ship named to honor Vice Adm. Charles Bowers "Swede" Momsen. Momsen attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in June

1919. He is best known for his efforts in the successful rescue of 33 crew members and the subsequent salvage of submarine USS Squalus (SS 192) after she sank in 240 feet of water in May 1939. Momsen received a commendation from President Franklin D. Roosevelt for these actions.

Momsen's daughter, Evelyn Momsen Hailey, will serve as ship's sponsor. In the time-honored Navy tradition, Hailey will break a bottle of champagne across the bow to formally christen the ship.

Cmdr. Edward F. Kenyon, a native of Binghamton, N.Y., is the ship's prospective com-



Cmdr. Charles "Swede" Momsen stands next to the rail (third from left) as USS Falcon (ASR 2) crewmen suit-up two Deep Sea Divers during the rescue/salvage operation following the sinking of the U.S. Navy submarine USS Squalus (SS 192). Momsen led the successful effort, which resulted in the rescue of 33 submariners.

manding officer and will have a crew of approximately 380 officers and enlisted personnel. Momsen is 511 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, a navigational draft of 33 feet and four gas-turbine engines power the 9,200-ton ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

The 42nd ship of 62 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers currently authorized by Congress, and the 23th to be built by Bath Iron Works, Momsen is a highly capable multimission ship that can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the National Military Strategy. This ship will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously. The ship contains myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

THE ENERGY BLOCK

Recycling is the process in which waste is returned to raw materials and made into new products. Recycling is important because while the world's population keeps creating lots of garbage, we are quickly running out of places to put it. I want you to take some time out and look around your office. What materials do you think are biodegradable, or can be broken down and recycled? Using recycled material also helps us conserve natural resources, such as are forestlands. Each American, on average, generates 3.5 pounds of waste daily, and almost half of this is paper waste. In addition to writing paper, paper products include computer printouts, folders, facial tissues, toilet paper, and paper cups and napkins. Some of these products may contain recycled fiber, but most are still made from the wood pulp of newly cut trees.

You can conserve paper, and save energy and money, in a variety of ways. You can conserve paper by duplexing, or imaging both sides of a sheet of paper. Avoid cover sheets, use thinner paper, use better equipment and software to preview documents, and manage more information electronically. Before you print always remember to proof read, so you won't need to reprint it because of a few typos. Use the print preview feature to ensure that what you are about to print is exactly what you need to print. Paper can also be made out of materials other than wood. Some papers are being made out of wheat straw, recycled paper, and the sugarcane and kenaf plant. The kenaf plant is a good alternative to paper because each kenaf crop can be harvested in about five months.

As oppose to 14 to 17 years it takes for the pine trees used to make paper to reach a harvesting point.

***DID YOU KNOW:** If 100,000 people stopped their junk mail, we could save about 150,000 trees every year. If a million people stopped their junk mail, we could save about 1.5 million trees.

***DID YOU KNOW:** If everyone in the United States recycled one-tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25 million trees every year.

***DID YOU KNOW:** More than 500,000 trees are used to supply Americans with their Sunday newspaper every week.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE

News Briefs

Change of Date

Captain's Cup Swim Meet date has been changed from Aug. 16 to Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. at the NAS II Pool. Men's and Women's events are registered at either Fitness Center. There will be t-shirts, awards and a free barbeque. Join in on the fun and earn points for your command.

Tournament

Magic: The Gathering Tournament Aug. 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Golden Anchor. Call Shawn at x3520 or Michael at x0362 for more information.

New Hours

The Mineo Video Store Sunday hours are now from noon to 6 p.m.

Calling All Homeschoolers

Are you a home schooler? Are you considering home schooling? Come to our kick-off meeting for Home schoolers in Sigonella Support Group on Sept 19. Call Irene at 634-1294 or Erica at 624-1201.

School Sports Physical

There will be a Sports Physical Clinic for the upcoming school year on Aug 28. All middle and high school students planning to play sports during the school year can stop by the school cafeteria from 9 a.m. to noon. You can pick up the physical form at the hospital or SAO office and complete prior to clinic. Parents must be present with student unless he/she is already enrolled in teen clinic. No appointments are needed. First come first serve. Call 624-4281/4284.

TRICARE Job Opening

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) has an immediate Full Time opening at the TRICARE Service Center, Sigonella, Italy for a TRICARE Medical Service Coordinator to provide customer service and operational support within the TRICARE service center setting. In this position, you will assist in providing information and support to individuals eligible for TRICARE benefits. Qualifications: Three years cumulative experience in the following areas: Two years experience in U.S. military healthcare delivery system or civilian managed care medical/administrative environment; Two years experience in a medical or clinical environment; One year experience with the Composite Health Care System (CHCS) or other Civilian Healthcare Computer System; Fluency in English; Must be eligible for Status of Forces Agreement coverage.

SAIC offers a highly competitive compensation and benefits package. Completion of ADP-II seven-year background investigation required in conjunction with employment. For consideration, please e-mail the cover letter and resume to tricare-jobs@saic.com.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Motta hosts medieval festival

Motta will host a spectacular medieval festival through Aug. 18 that will bring to life the customs and spirit of the middle ages. Travel back in time to revel in the atmosphere of medieval Sicily when this sunny island Sicily was under the Norman, Spanish and Muslim rules. The streets of the city will be crowded with villagers in period costumes, craftsmen, tumblers, minstrels, witches, jugglers and monks to give festival goers a glimpse of medieval lifestyle.

The festival takes place within the three city *Rioni* (districts): *Panzer*a (located along via Vittorio Emanuele and around piazza Umberto), *Vecchia Matrice*, (castle area) and *Giovani Maestri* (upper part of Motta). Each district has its own schedule of events that include medieval plays and performances, banquets and music starting every evening at 8:30 p.m. Craftsmen, tumblers, minstrels, jugglers and other re-enactors will entertain festivalgoers with shows, dances, demonstrations and games. Every night, a theatrical show telling of the historical personality of the queen Bianca of Navarra is staged at midnight at the *Maestri* district.

On Aug. 17, festival goers can get a chance to go back to an age of chivalry, romance, and royal sporting entertainment as the traditional medieval jousting (*Palio dei Martino*) takes place at the *Maestri* district.

The competition kicks off at 8:30 p.m. and consists of striking a puppet while on horseback, which represents a Saracen soldier considered as the devil, then a shot to a mobile target with a spiked stick, shots to rings and eventually javelin throws.

Don't forget that, every evening local inns sell medieval food that will be prepared according to the original recipes. Cereal soups, roasted game,



Motta Medieval festival offers a colorful glimpse into Sicily's past. This year's event will include attractions such as costumed villagers, plays, music and vendors selling medieval food specialties as well as a traditional *Palio* (jousting on horseback).

salsiccie (sausages), *couscous*, and local wines are among the specialties that the festival attendees can sample.

On Aug. 22, celebrations in honor of Saint Anastasia, city patron saint, begin with the three district's *cerei* (richly and majestic decorated candle-shaped structures representing the three city districts) procession at 5:30 p.m. in piazza Umberto. Later in the evening, a drama featuring the story of the life Saint Anastasia is staged at 9 p.m. in piazza Umberto. For the complete schedule see next week's Italian News.

Caltagirone stairs illuminated

On Aug. 15, the three most beautiful stairs of the city's historic center including the majestic *Santa Maria dal Monte* (142 majolica steps), the ones situated in via Cavalliti and via Giuseppico, will be lit by thousands of *coppi* (colored oil lamps or lanterns) at 9:15 p.m. to create a magnificent, original design.

Later in the evening, a music show is held in piazzale dell'Apparizione at 10 p.m.

For more information and detailed schedules regarding summer events call Caltagirone Tourist Office at 0933/ 34191 or 351073.

Peach festival to be held in Bivona

On Aug. 23 and 24, Bivona, a small mountain town in the Agrigento province, will host the annual *Sagra della pesca bivona* (Bivona Peach Festival), a two day family fun festival featuring arts & crafts, food vendors and live music entertainment (Aug. 24 at 10 p.m.). The festival begins in the afternoon and is held in piazza Ducale, the main square.

The city also offers beautiful monuments such as the gothic *Portale dei Chiaramonte* (Doorway of Chiaramonte), built in the 14th century and the mesmerizing *Palazzo Marchese Greco* (Marquis Greco Palace), a great example of the Sicilian baroque. The *Chiesa Madre* (cathedral), erected during the 17th century, and featuring a magnificent black crucifix that is venerated as miraculous, and the *Chiesa di Santa Rosalia* whose interior preserves a statue of the homonymous Saint, are also worth a visit. For more information call 0922/986505.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR					15	16
					August	
					VA Rep Appointments 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FFSC Call 624-4291	Captain's Cup Swim Meet NAS II Pool t-shirts, awards, BBQ Call 624-2710

17	Catania History, St. Agata Festival & Fireworks ITT Call 624-4396	18	Walleyball Tourney NAS II Gym Captains Cup Event Call 624-2710	19	Mineo Water Balloon Fun Mineo Rec Center Call 624-0446	20	Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing	21	Water B-Ball Skills Clinic & Tourney 5 to 8 p.m.NAS II Pool Call 624-5335	22	AFN Open House All day. Everyone is invited.	23	Eraclea Minoa & Beach ITT Call 624-4396
24	Agrigento & the Turkish Steps ITT Call 624-4396	25	Free Tennis Clinic until Aug. 29 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II Courts Call 624-2710	26		27	Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing	28	Youth Sports Physical 9 a.m. to noon Stephen Decatur Cafeteria Call 624-4281	29	Kindergarten Orientation 10 a.m.	30	
31	Calascibetta Palio Horseback Riding Festival ITT Call 624-4396	1	Labor Day	2	First Day of School School dismissed at 11 a.m.	3		4		5	Catania by Night & Wine Tasting ITT Call 624-4396	6	3rd Annual Open Golf Championships tee off 9 a.m. Il Picciolo Golf Club Individual golf challenge Call 624-2710
7		8	Free Volleyball Clinic until Sept. 12 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II Gym Call 624-2710	9		10	Intramural Bowling Leaque 6 p.m. TENPINS Call 624-3870	11		12		13	Biathlon/Triathlon 7:30 to 8 a.m. NAS II Pool Call 624-4483

Word Find

Rock Bands

E T C W N Q A S T I A R T S E R I D R K J E M B B
S N Z S T I B D G H U X M Y G Q D Q C K R Q L L M
Z U O H L L A Y A V Z N Y Z E H W I O S Y U D A E
S Y Q B O L L R G M V X T Q P A R L O A E A O C Q
X P D N H F O K T O A B C Y P T K X R M I E Y K A
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K I S S E H R L L A G H O O H R Y I L E P M G B V
U M T Y A W I U A F C O O R O E O T R J U I B A K
S E N O T F E D E S A N O U N P A H H Q D T G T C
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C U P N E B N F N O T V M E G V T E T V I S N D M
T V H E S C N N P D E F L E P P A R D S I C I O S
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|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| AC/DC | CHEAP TRICK | FISHBONE | OPM |
| ADAM AND THE ANTS | CLASH | GODSMACK | PEARL JAM |
| AEROSMITH | CURE | GOO GOO DOLLS | POISON |
| BEATLES | DEF LEPPARD | KISS | SLAYER |
| BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY | DEFTONES | KORN | SPOON |
| BLACK SABBATH | DIRE STRAITS | LUNGFISH | STING |
| BLONDIE | DOORS | MEAT LOAF | THE URGE |
| BLUE MAN GROUP | EAGLES | METALLICA | TRAIN |
| BON JOVI | EURYTHMICS | NIGHT RANGER | |

TRIVIA

- What are the four largest islands in the world?
O mafia! lou ulu is 'you have a thick head' in what language?
In which state is the geographical center of the United States?
Which place on Earth had the highest recorded temperature?
What is atom sized and is the fastest moving bit of matter in the universe?

(Answers on page 8)

Movie Connection

AAWP's Theater Schedule

Friday, Aug. 15



1 p.m.
Rugrats Go Wild (PG)



5:30 p.m.
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13) **



9 p.m.
Seabiscuit (PG-13) **

Monday, Aug. 18



5:30 p.m.
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)



8:30 p.m.
Seabiscuit (PG-13)

Theater Closed Tuesdays Wednesday, Aug. 20



1 p.m.
Rugrats Go Wild (PG)



5:30 p.m.
The Italian Job (PG-13) *



8:30 p.m.
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life (PG-13)

Thursday, Aug. 21



5:30 p.m.
Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13)



8:30 p.m.
Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)

Sunday, Aug. 17



1 p.m.
Pirates of the Caribbean (PG-13)



4 p.m.
The Italian Job (PG-13)



7 p.m.
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13)



1 p.m.
The Hulk (PG-13)



5:30 p.m.
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life (PG-13)



9 p.m.
American Wedding: American Pie 3 (R) **

*** Future Re-release **Sneak Preview *Last Showing

(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at

SDS elementary schedule

Class lists will be posted August 29 at School, Housing Areas and at the NEX.

Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. - Kindergarten Orientation - Multipurpose Room followed by 10:30 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony for new primary building

Sept. 2 - Orientation Day for Grades 1-5 Parents will accompany students to school School dismisses at 11 a.m.

NFL Stars Thrill Atsugi Sailors

By Lt. j.g. Nicole Kratzer, Carrier Air Wing 5 Public Affairs



New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington signs a football for a fan during his visit to Atsugi, Japan.

ATSUGI, Japan (NNS) — Wide-eyed and almost shaking with anticipation, 36 Sailors and officers from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron (HSL) 51, stepped off a bus in front of the Tokyo Dome Aug. 1 to meet their heroes. These heroes were the players and coaches of the National Football League (NFL) teams the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the New York Jets. The teams were in Tokyo to compete in the American Bowl, the NFL's first exhibition game of the season.

Some have been die-hard football fans almost since birth, and others, like Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Shawn Kelly from Fighter Squadron (VF) 154, had never been to a professional football game before. Either way, all were more than a little excited to be there.

"It's flabbergasting," said Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Jonathan Mitchell, also with VF-154. "I'm hoping to get a chance to shake the hands of some of the guys I see every weekend on TV," added Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Kalief Williams, an aircrewman with Fleet Logistics Squadron (VRC) 30, Detachment 5. "I really want to meet John Lynch. He's one of my favorite players on the Bucs," said Williams.

Not long after their arrival in the arena, the Sailors were escorted onto the sidelines as the Jets took to the field for practice. Like kids in a candy store, each with camera or team paraphernalia in hand, they pointed and waved, awestruck to be in the presence of the famed athletes. In between plays and at the end of the practice time, several members of the Jets spoke with all of the Sailors, not only about football, but also about what the Sailors do on a daily basis. Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Jermaine Chestnut from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 27 explained to a very attentive Dave Szott and Kevin Mawae of the Jets' offensive line, the responsibilities he has loading ordnance onto F/A-18C Hornets. When Lt. Jon Bear of VFA-195 explained to Mawae his job as an F/A-18 pilot, Mawae responded with a high five and an enthusiastic, "Top Gun, yeah baby!" Next to take the field were the Super Bowl Champions, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Warren Sapp, the Buccaneers' star defensive tackle gave the Sailors the show they were waiting for, warming up just feet away from where they were standing, shouting, "It's a wonderful day to be alive!"

When practice was over, the team spent almost an hour with the Sailors signing autographs and taking pictures. Some Sailors even got a chance to hold Buccaneer General Manager Rich McKay's Super Bowl ring. "It's pretty heavy," noted Lt. Daniel Bentacourt of HSL-51.

In addition to interest in the Sailors jobs and lives in Japan, the players from both teams showed a great appreciation for the service of all members of the military. Curtis Martin, a running back with the Jets, told the Sailors, "We admire you in the military more than you all admire us. It's cool to see you here more than anyone else."

"God bless you all," Jet's starting quarterback Chad Pennington told the Sailors as he signed autographs. "We appreciate all the effort you guys give us."

Sapp couldn't agree more. "You got to take your hat off to these guys," he told American Forces Network. Turning to the Sailors clamoring for his autograph, he told them, "The job you do is way more important than ours is."

The Buccaneers coach, Jon Gruden, told the Sailors that they are great role models for the players on his team. "It's great having the military here. Their enthusiasm, discipline, concentration, and ability to be the best are qualities we try and instill in our players."

This week on...

Mon. Aug 18 - West Wing	AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM
Tue. Aug 19 - Movie: The Mummy	AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM
Wed. Aug 20 - Fear Factor	AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM
Thu. Aug 21 - Will & Grace	AFN Atlantic 7:25 PM
Fri. Aug 22 - King of the Hill	AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

AFN SIGONELLA NEWS WILL AIR AT 6:50 PM STARTING AUGUST 18TH.

FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S WEBSITE AT afneurope.net/sigonella/

Fri. Aug. 15

It's Latino and R&B Night at Live Wire featuring the DJ 1 Bad 'Rican . Don't be Hip-Hop-Anonymous, come down to Live Wire!

Sat. Aug. 16

YEE HAW! Put on your boots and get ready to ride. The Live Wire rodeo is coming to town. Sign up for events like barrel racing, pole bending, and bronco roping. Don't forget to wear your biggest belt buckle and your ten-gallon hat. Also, bring in a pot of your best chili for the Chili Cookoff. Prizes and giveaways all night.

Sun. Aug. 17

Learn the fascinating history of Catania and its ability to overcome multiple disasters with Liberty. Tour the Cathedral, Elephant Square, the fish market, the Roman Amphitheatre, and Belini Opera House. Afterwards, experience the summer festival of St. Agata, the patron saint of Catania. Call Liberty at x5187 for more information.

Mon. Aug. 18

BINGO! It's BINGO night at Live Wire at 6:30 p.m. Cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m. Come early for a good seat. Cash prizes every week.

Tues. Aug. 19

It's Tournament Tuesday at Take 5. Come at 11:30 a.m. to try your hand at sinking somebody's battleship. Free to play and win. Call x5602 for more information on Take 5 events and services.

Weds. Aug. 20

Come on over to Live Wire for Mystery Music Night. You're at the mercy of the DJ.

Back by popular demand, it's Stamping 101. Sign up at Adventures Unlimited for this creative and fun class. The price includes a stamp pad and card stock. Sign up early, limited space. Call AU at x3718 for more information.

Thurs. Aug. 21

Can't make it to JOX for Karaoke? They're beltin' out the tunes every Thursday night at Live Wire's Karaoke Night.

NCWG-1 warfare reservists provide humanitarian aid to Iraq

By Lt. Cmdr. John Garofolo, Naval Coastal Warfare Group 1

UMM QASR, Iraq (NNS) — Reservists assigned to Naval Coastal Warfare Group (NCWG) 1 returned to the southern Iraqi city of Umm Qasr to deliver school supplies and child-sized picnic tables to children in this poverty-stricken community.

During major combat operations, Naval Coastal Warfare (NCW) units provided port security and harbor defense at the port of Umm Qasr.

The Sailors from NCW delivered the supplies to one of the schools in Umm Qasr and interacted with many of the town’s children, who were naturally interested in the convoy. When final exams were completed for the day, the Sailors passed out packages to the students and teachers.

After the visit to the school, the convoy made another stop at the Umm Qasr Town Council. The Sailors delivered

the rest of the boxes of supplies to the Council Leader so they could be distributed to other local schools.

“This was a great opportunity for our families back at home to help us do something really positive for the people of Iraq,” said Capt. Mike Shatynski, commanding officer of the Long Beach, Calif.,-based Harbor Defense Command Unit (HDCU) 114 and the force security officer for the Port of Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait. “I know the people at home and the troops were both really excited about this humanitarian mission.”

The project started when Shatynski’s wife, Valerie, and her friend Nona Reimer developed a plan to aid Iraqi school children. Reimer, who is on the faculty of John Malcom Elementary School in Laguna Niguel, Calif., got her students excited about helping Iraqi school children.

Lentini from page 1

tion is the philosopher Gorgia da Lentini, the poet Jacapo de Lentini, who introduced the sonnet in Italy, the architect Frederick II of Swabia, and the fencing champion Michele Alaimo.

Today, local Lentinians flock to the marketplace (flea market) for everything from local fresh foods including herbs and spices to everyday household commodities like cleaning supplies and clothing all at very reasonable prices.

As such today’s tourist can also take advantage of these same bargains. There is also a very personable jewelry store with a personable staff called the Galleria nestled in the heart of Lentini. Its unique entrance greets you with a cylindrical door that allows one person in at a time. The English-speaking personnel make shopping very relaxing. The reasonable prices on the jewelry make the purchase on the most simple piece of jewelry to the most ornate worthwhile.

ITT offers trips like this to Lentini that will pick you up from either base and take you to the heart of town and pick you up after a few hours of soaking up local color and shopping then bring you back to base.

NEMOD from page 1

Oceanography,” said AG2 Kristen Zavala.

According to Nagamatsu, having a supportive chain of command allows them to set goals and work towards meeting higher standards. Duncan, who has only been stationed at NASSIG NEMOD for only two months, has hit the ground running and eager for the challenges. “Having her as our chief gives us a strong sense of leadership,” commented Nagamatsu. Zavala added, “Chief has helped improve morale since her arrival. She is a down to earth and straightforward chief. She is constantly looking out for us.”

“We all try to look out after each other. It is a friendly and professional environment. I enjoy my job and working at NEMOD,” said Zavala.

Find out more about NEMOD or the weather by checking out their website at <http://nemod-sig.nemoc.navy.mil>. You can read about flag con-



Sailors look over weather observations. Doss is the Forecasting Duty Officer for his shift.

ditions or the entire breakdown of what weather to expect month-to-month, check out the local and extended forecast, or find weather links to other sites to find out the weather before flying back to the states.

CNI from page 1

importance of the base. “Without the support of this installation, we could not have done the job that we did in Southwest Asia and Iraq. Having the ability to have a partnership with the Italian government, to have this kind of robust focused facility enables our combat power to be projected in the way that the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has envisioned.”

“The bases in Europe are extremely relevant to the Navy’s changing role from a rotational Navy to a surge Navy,” Weaver said. “Europe’s bases are poised to offer assistance and contribution to do that.”

Weaver also addressed the topic of base realignment to clear up any questions and concerns. “When an installation is invested in with the facilities and capabilities that are enabled, it makes the decision of what bases to realign and close,” he said. “It contributes to that process by making the decision clear... this base clearly has capabilities and not liabilities.”

He also wanted to thank Sailors for their hard work and contributions to operations Navy wide.

Fuels from page 1

pany G, and active duty member ABF1 (AW/SW) Kennedy Lowe, NASSIG Fuels Division leading petty officer, the bland wall outside the NASSIG Fuels Division now is a symbol of Fuels pride.

“Basically it’s a pride thing for us,” said Lowe. The painting on the wall includes the Aviation Boatswain’s Mate rating insignia topped with “Finest Fuelers in the Med” banner. On the left sits the NASSIG Supply Department logo, on the right, the NASSIG emblem. “It’s not just us as ABF’s or fuelers. We included the supply department, and a NASSIG emblem for people stationed at NASSIG,” said Lowe. “I wanted to relate it to everybody.”

Taxson, who is a tattoo artist and body piercer from Belleville, Mich., has experience in mural painting, but this task proved a bit tough for him. “I didn’t have any of my supplies,” he said. “I had to sketch it all from paper and measure it out instead of just actually throwing it up with a projector. It’s pretty hard to get all the proportions right. I’m just glad we got the job done and it looks really good.”

Reservists like Taxson are appreciated for the unique talents they bring. “That’s a nice thing about reservists, they’re able to use their skills from the outside,” said Lt. Jeff Schneider, assistant company commander, Supply Support Battalion Two (SSB2), Fuels Company G. “[Taxson is] a tattoo artist, and can use his skills other than just his Navy skills.”

They worked on the painting three hours each day for a total of 20 hours. They finished on Aug. 6. The other reservists from SSB 2 including MM2 Xun Wang, YN2 Kris Gilbert, and HT2 Tonya Ragland also helped,



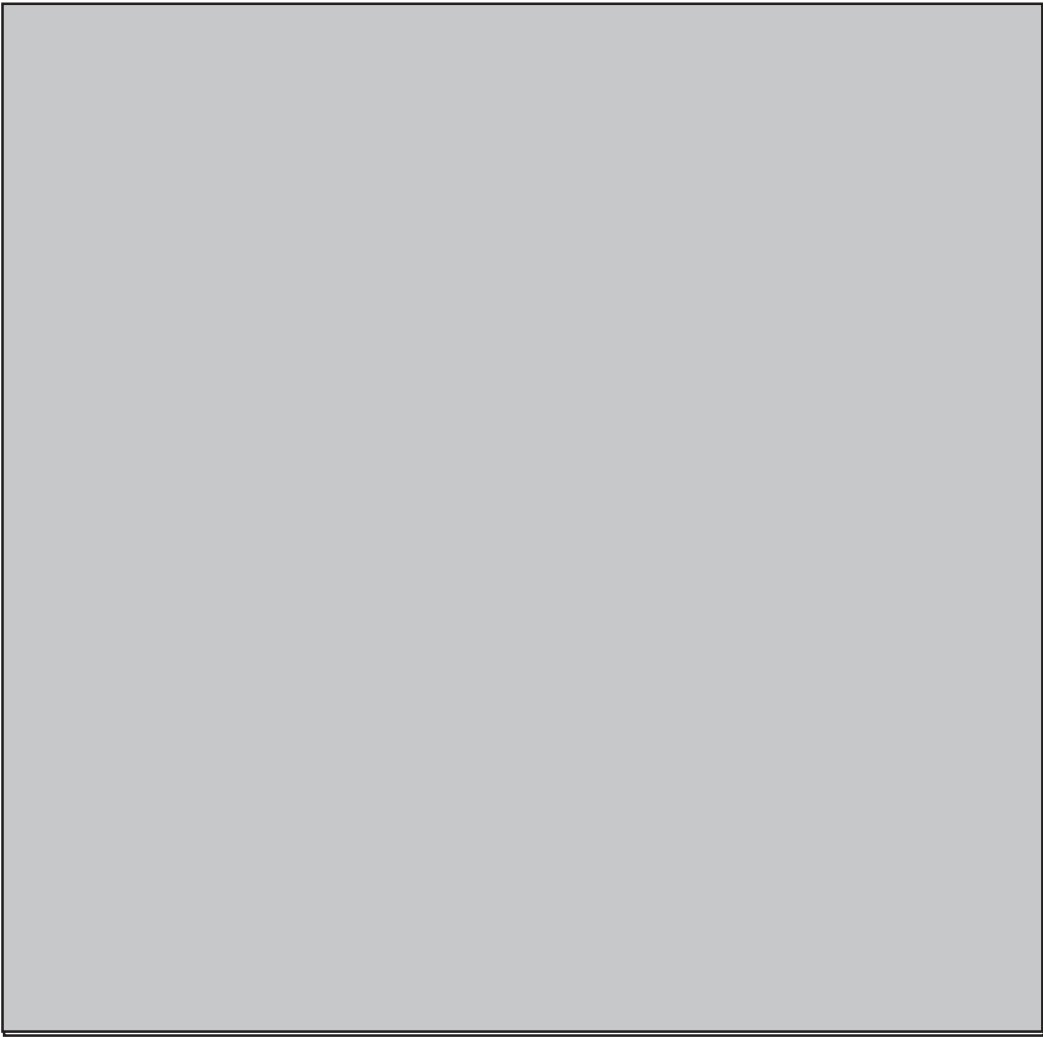
Reservists and members of Fuels division stand in front of the newly painted fuels division wall.

giving the whole wall a more pleasing yellow color. Taxson and Lowe said the wall was not up to par at first. “It was nasty looking.”

The painting of the wall was a team effort. “The team had to throw money together, the whole facility here, to go out in town and buy paint,” said Schneider.

SSB 2 is helping out the NASSIG Fuels Division wherever they are needed. “We come here to assist in fueling operations and any other tasks that are needed,” said Schneider. These tasks can include maintenance, painting, and putting decals on the trucks. Four groups from SSB 2, Fuels Company G, are coming through to help NASSIG Fuels. “Our whole unit is supporting here from the July 1 through September.”

So those who run down the perimeter road from now on will see a symbol of pride. “A good thing about it is every morning, a lot of people run the perimeter road,” said Lowe. “They pass by it and now they’ll know this is where Fuels is.”



Trivia Answers

- 1) Greenland, New Guinea, Borneo, Madagascar
- 2) Samoan
- 3) South Dakota
- 4) Al Azizyah, Libya, recorded 136° F in 1922
- 5) a cosmic ray

SPORTS

COMSTA GOES UNDEFEATED IN 2003 PLAYOFFS

By IT1(SW) Louis Genaro
Contributing writer

The dust had settled and the break in regular season had come. ...Playoff 2003 was around the corner.

The brackets were set, and COMSTA's first task to advance was the AIMD B team. The play-offs were underway. AIMD B had been a scrappy team most of the year and gave most teams a run for their money. COMSTA defeated AIMD B 16 - 9.

COMSTA advanced in the winners bracket and would face the soon departing VP-8 team. VP-8 and COMSTA had a little rivalry during the regular season, but this game would separate the men from the boys. COMSTA eventually clipped VP-8's wings 15 -8, and moved on higher up the ladder.

COMSTA's next task was to face the Security A team. This is the match up that would put COMSTA to the test. Security had set the pace for the season, as if they had a radar gun setup in a near by speed trap and had a talented squad. COMSTA and Security A played, but COMSTA held the upper hand in this game, giving Security A their first lost 17 - 4.

COMSTA's next game was a duel with the Security B team, who was the best "new comer" team for the league this year. COMSTA continued to swing away and put up runs. COMSTA defeated Security B by sending them to face their fellow comrades Security A.

At this point, COMSTA had to await the winner of the losers bracket to see who they would play in the finals. Though the favorite at

this point was Security A, Security B would have other plans. The game went on, but the "alpha" squad came through and put some points the "bravo" squad's licenses.

The stage was set as Security A would play COMSTA A in the finals. The afternoon of July 31 was here, and the two big boy teams had come to play some ball. COMSTA was the home team due to securing the winners bracket. Security led off and put two runs up in their first at bat. COMSTA answered back with three runs.

The next inning is where Security's fireworks started. Security put up 10 runs, hitting several home runs over the fence. COMSTA had some work cut out for them in the bottom of the third as they put up three more runs to tap into the Security lead.

The defense regrouped, and the pitching, lead by Cory Pitts, took over the game. Security was held from scoring, and COMSTA would return to bat. As the game progressed, the temperatures of the players heated up, and close calls made by the men in blue (umpires) were becoming a factor in the game.

In the later innings, Security went ahead of COMSTA as they reignited and put some of the newly entered Worth softballs over the outfield fence. The team regrouped between innings. COMSTA put their hands together as their hearts and talents took over the game.

The bottom of the fifth took on the meaning of "base knocks." The lead-off batter Anthony Nunez, led off with a single. Osvaldo Melendez, who set the pace, continued to be hot in the playoffs. Rob Clem



smashed a single, and Hiram Lamb had the bases juiced for his at bat. Lamb responded by placing the .47 core over the second fence. Louis "Gee" Genaro continued to stroke the ball, while Bill Cade kept the inning going. Manuel Lopez's bat kept the ball hot, while Eric Chapman put his very first softball dinger over the fence.

The inning continued, and COMSTA batted around twice, going deep into their starting six batters. COMSTA scored 11 runs in the inning, and went up 24 - 14, but there was plenty of ball left to played.

Security continued to hit the ball

and place runners on base as any great team would do. More dingers were to follow as Security tried to handcuff into the COMSTA lead. Security put up some extra runs, and the game went into the top of the seventh with COMSTA up 24 - 19. Security had the top of their lineup, which would be the perfect part of this game, but great defense and smart pitching would play a role.

After leading off with a single, COMSTA got the next batter out. With one down, the next batter came up and got the second out. Security's big batter Brian Neal, who hit a bunch a bombs earlier in the game, was up to bat, but the decision was made to

walk him. The bases were loaded, and their next batter had the game on the line. COMSTA pitched. The ball was hit high and deep, and the Sigonella wind keep it floating, but the right fielder caught it for the final out. COMSTA won 24 - 19, going undefeated in the playoffs.

COMSTA was lead by following: Louis "Gee" Genaro batting avg .810, Osvaldo Melendez batting avg. 714, Bill Cade batting avg. 714, Hiram Lamb batting avg. 667 with 6 HR, and Rob Clem batting avg. 577 with 6 HR. Congratulations to COMSTA, the NAS Sigonella "A" League Softball Champions for 2003.

The Lane

Free Tennis clinic

Pick up some new skills and strategies and sharpen your game. Starting Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. at the NAS II tennis courts. for information call 624-2710.

1st Ever NAS Sigonella Labor Day Invitational Bowling tournament

Starting Aug. 30, Sigonella's best bowlers take on teams from all over Europe. Before the tournament a 27 game local qualifying tournament will be held. for information call the bowling center at 624-4302

2-on-2 Horseshoe Tournament

Come out to the NAS II ballfield Saturday, Aug. 23, at 10 a.m. for some free grub and a chance to show off your horse footwear tossing skills. This is a Captain's cup event. For more information call 624-2710.

Mosaics come to life in ancient Roman town



A nice view of one of Noto’s various historical buildings which display the cultural and architectural influences of a bygone era.

By Lt. j.g. Rebbekah Johnson
Staff Writer

If you want to see some beautifully re stored Roman-era mosaics, head to the baroque *Città* (city) *di* Noto. These magnificent depictions of 4th century A.D. Roman life, some of the most meaningful Roman archeological finds in Sicily, present viewers with a looking glass into the ancient everyday lives of the Roman upper class.

The mosaics were discovered in 1971, when workers unearthed part of a Roman villa beside the Tellaro River, along with its still-intact marble mosaic floor coverings. According to Maria Amato, one of the managers of the Noto tourist office, the mosaics were in relatively good condition when they were found, accounting for the fact that they had been buried under centuries of Sicilian dirt.

Holding depictions of everyday Roman life, such as hunting and banquet scenes, the mosaics still retain the vibrant colors that they did when originally created by skilled craftsmen. Amato says that the mosaics are significant because they demonstrate the artistic interest of the Romans, and the detailed scenes also give us insight into the everyday lives of the upper class.

“It’s amazing because it really gives you a picture of how their life used to be,” she said.

The decorative mosaics were originally commissioned by a wealthy Roman nobleman in the 4th century A.D. to adorn his home, the *Villa del Tellaro* – approximately four miles from the present-day city of Noto. Even though we do not know anything about the original owners of



A marble mosaic which was painstakingly restored at a Siracusa archeological museum.

the mosaics, experts believe that the *Villa del Tellaro* was richly adorned in its halcyon days and owned by someone who was extremely wealthy.

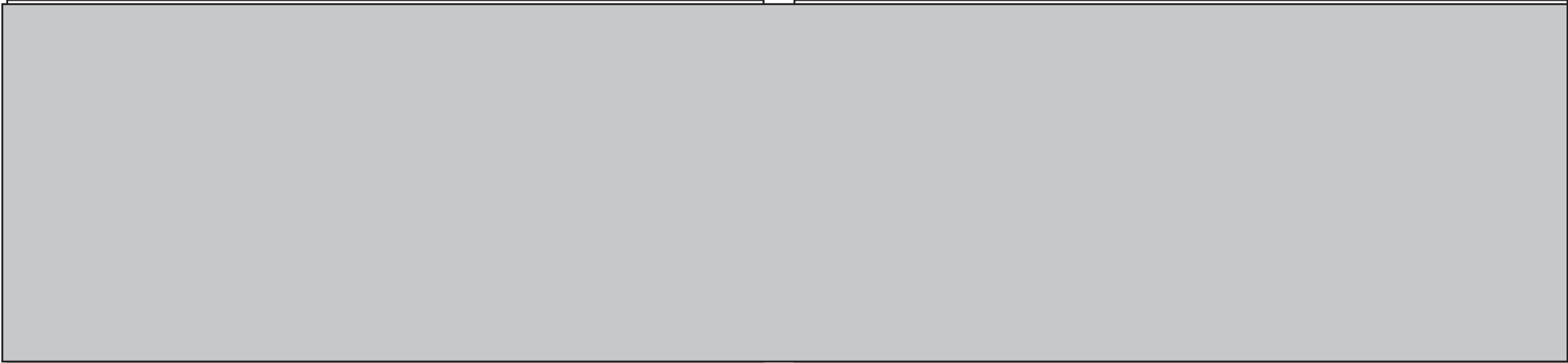
The marble mosaics, which were painstakingly restored at an archeological museum in *Siracusa*, were transported in sections to the *Chiesa di San Domenico* (or San Domenico Church) in Noto, where they will be on display until September. In about a year, the mosaics will be returned to their original resting place at the *Villa del Tellaro*, which is also being restored to its former glory.

The “Garden of Stone”

The *Chiesa di San Domenico*, where the *Villa del Tellaro* mosaics are currently on exhibit, is only one example of Noto’s breathtaking 18th century Sicilian baroque architecture. As one of the most famous examples of baroque architecture in the world, the soft honey-yellow colors of its limestone buildings have caused Noto to be dubbed the “Garden of Stone” and the “Gold City.” The city’s stone splendor is owed in large part to Rosario Gagliardi (1687-1762), who signed his works as the “Architect and Engineer of the City of Noto and its Valley.”

Built in approximately 1730, the *Chiesa di San Domenico* is one of Gagliardi’s architectural masterpieces. The interior is also notable, containing an original lengthened Greek cross structure and altarpieces painted by Antonio Madiona (1701-?).

However, the Ancient Noto that was inhabited at various times by the Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Normans is not the city as we know it today. After the devastating earthquake of 1693, its citizens decided to rebuild the city at





Another example of an ancient Roman mosaic discovered under centuries of Sicilian dirt. This scene depicts everyday Roman life.



This tower is another example of the historic architecture in the wonderful Sicilian town of Noto.

its present-day location – eight miles away from Ancient Noto. A wise decision, to be sure.

Italian author Gesualdo Bufalino (1920-1996) wrote, “Go to Noto, listen to me... it’s a place where if one happens to come, one is trapped and happy and never goes away.”

Bufalino’s enthusiasm may be a bit of an overstatement – but even if you *do* leave Noto eventually, rest assured that whether you spend a day or only an hour in the Gold City, its ancient stones will have stories to tell.

For more information about Noto and the mosaics of the *Villa del Tellaro*, stop by the tourist office at Piazza XVI Maggio, Villetta Ercole, which is directly in front of the *Chiesa di San Domenico*, or call 0931-573779.

Succulent Sicilian supper and sightseeing reigns supreme

By **Cmdr. Lissa Wohltmann**
Staff Writer

The true, die-hard, fast food aficionados on base would not enjoy the ITT excursion to Catania for an authentic Sicilian meal, sightseeing and wine tasting adventure.

However, for those who have tired of bland burgers, boring fries or the monotonous salad bar and would like to converse with others about something a bit more stimulating than the plan of the day, then sign up now for the next “Catania by Night and Wine Tasting” outing you will read about in *The Signature*.

Upon arriving in the cultural Mecca of Catania, Luisa Urzi, the tour guide, will give a brief history of the area.

“The elephant is the symbol of Catania,” she began during a recent Friday night trip, while pointing to the statue in the center of Elephant Square. She gave the group time to click their cameras about this historic hub of Catania and continued detailing the recent reconstructed section including repaving of the area’s surface using lava slabs.

From there she will lead you down the old town cobblestone roads, through the scenic church district and into Chiesa San Benedetto. This small cathedral has the intricate, detailed ceiling art of the Sistine Chapel, beautifully ornate religious art and other ecclesiastical representations throughout. Since wealthy families thought they could buy their way to heaven at the time, they would spend much of their riches on lavishly decorating the church.

The next stop on the Catania night tour is another building filled with exquisite, antediluvian art. Unlike the former “house of God,” this building was the Istituto Statale D’arte, the art school of Catania. Included in this show was the large 256 x 186 centimeter oil painting by Vincenzo Tuccari entitled *Madonna della lettera con i Santi* as well as a fairly small pious oil by Matteo Desiderato. The centuries old paintings on display were of the religious genre because most of the old artwork was done for the glory of God. Yet, there were some radical thinkers of the time who painted secular and didn’t paint portraits of the wealthy. For example, in 1500, Albrecht Durer dared to paint little owls and rabbits, only because they were cute.

Following the diminutive course in art history, the group followed Urzi down a few side streets towards Ave Maria church just in time to see a group of fashionably dressed people waiting for a bride and groom to exit the building. Then, true to tradition, loud church bells rang before this newly married couple were pummeled with rice while friends, family and tourists stood by to take photos and congratulate the pair on their future life together.

After this couple was whisked away in the bridal limousine, the ITT tour group continued the festivities by heading towards Cappella Bonajuto for a little wine tasting and more interesting anecdotes of Sicily.

The ancient, basilica structure, was used as a family chapel at one time. Descending the old creaking staircase, you could immediately detect a damp musty odor. That, coupled with the thick fortified walls of Roman building blocks, was reminiscent of an old medieval castle. In the front of the room was a stage only large enough for two or three band members. In this environment, one could imagine the men in tunics and robes playing Baroque music with a flute, harp and lyre.

Salvatore Bonajuto, the owner, led the small group of mostly Sailors upstairs to the bar. In Sicily, a bar is not just a place to go drink alcohol, become inebriated and fall down. No, a Sicilian bar is more of a café where people enjoy light aperitifs and brunch while listening to classical music or readings and theatre. The appetizers served were a different kind of bruschetta. Instead of the traditional scrumptious bread smothered with chopped tomatoes, garlic and oil, these morsels of mouth-watering hors d’oeuvres included other spreads of finely chopped olives or pistachios.

While munching on these goodies, three different wines were served. Clearly, the first one was the winner for most Americans on this trip because it was sweet and fruity. The other two were a bit dryer.

After the wine-tasting jaunt, the group sauntered over to the restaurant for a true multi-course Sicilian dinner. These types of dinners are not just to nourish bodies, but they are colossal events in the Sicilian culture and typically last for hours.

The purpose of these dinners is for people to talk, visit and laugh with one another, Urzi explained.

For those who are trying to control fat, cholesterol and calories, yet still want a taste of Sicily, *pasta alla norma* is the Catalina dish to order for the main course. It’s made with pasta (what else?) and a tomato based sauce filled with eggplant and wonderfully aromatic herbs and spices.

Although Cmdr. Gail Crutcher, a member of this particular group, takes his work in the medical community very seriously, he also takes his time off with the same amount of zest.

“I come for the food and MWR,” he joked about choosing Sicily for his reserve duty.

At the end of the expedition, all were full and feeling fine.

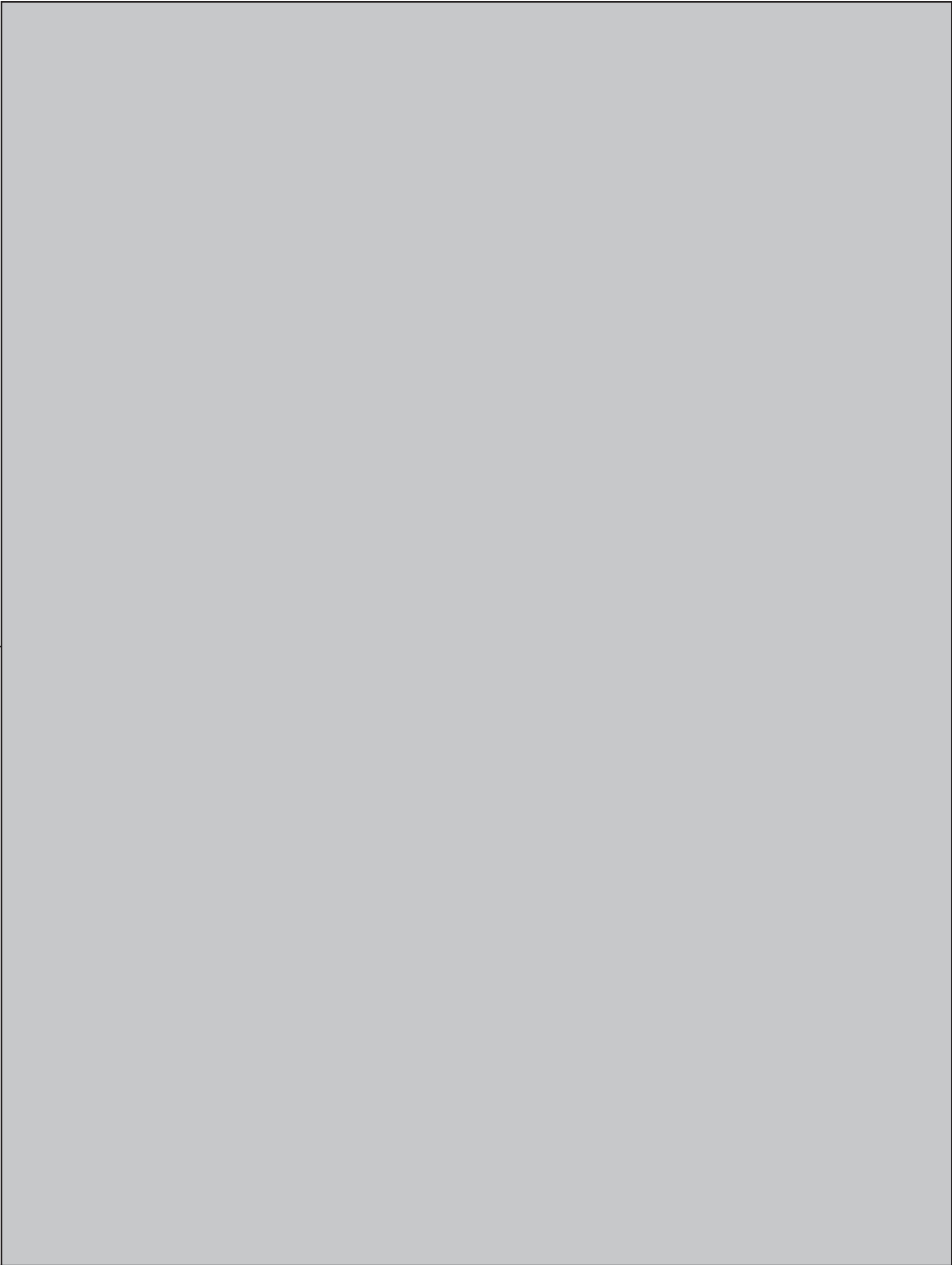
“I absolutely loved it,” Ryan Pleasant said about the



entire trip. “I’ve only been here a week; it’s my first trip.”

In fact, he was so impressed with this ITT trip, he plans on going to as many expeditions as possible. It wasn’t just the wine tasting that impressed

him. It was the culmination of abundant delectable cuisine, interestingly entertaining company and remarkable sights of the city. All the people on this trip agreed that the evening was a class act with the usual fun Sicilian flair.



New Commissary Patron Council members reflect all shopping audiences

By *Bonnie Powell,*

FORT LEE, Va. – The most recent commissary customer satisfaction survey shows that 2 percent of respondents were new commissary shoppers. That’s not all that’s “new” at the Defense Commissary Agency. Eleven new members have been recruited for service on DeCA’s Patron Council, bringing the council up to 22 members and four alternates.

DeCA Director Maj. Gen. Michael P.



Wiedemer welcomed an unprecedented representation of active-duty, retiree, National Guard and Reserve, Coast Guard, and military association leaders to DeCA’s annual Patron Council meeting held July 23 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

DeCA’s Patron Council provides the DeCA Director and key managers with customer insights about the commissary system, as well as issues of concern to active duty, retiree, and Guard and Reserve customers. The council consists of individuals and organizations representing retired or active duty members or spouses of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserve who have been designated as official representatives by their respective service or association.

“DeCA is on track to achieve much greater awareness of the commissary benefit,” said Wiedemer. “The addition of these new members means the patron council truly reflects the great diversity of our customers. Through their extensive networks, the new members will also increase our ability to broadcast commissary benefit messages to authorized shoppers everywhere.”

The recent patron council meeting was an opportunity to give council members, both new and returning, a business review of DeCA operations, corporate communications, budget, human resources, information technology, food safety and security, and even where they can expect to see new commissaries or store improvements over the next five years. The good news included information about significant increases in customer savings and customer satisfaction scores.

For veteran council members, the event was also a chance to share the initiatives they’ve put in place to communicate the value of the commissary benefit. Army National Guard representative Ron Tipa, said he has been a loyal commissary shopper for many years. “I figure I’ve put two kids through college, thanks to commissary savings,” he said. Patron Council members have worked hard during the last few years to get that kind of commissary information out to authorized shoppers through Web sites, newsletters, conferences, e-mails and networking opportunities.

For the new participants it was more than a learning experience. “This is a great opportunity to share thoughts and strategies,” said Sgt. Maj. Eduardo Gadsden, the new Marine Corps senior enlisted representative. “I’m here to learn as much as I can about the commissary benefit so I can carry that back with me,” said Chief Petty Officer Lynda Kennedy, Coast Guard Reserve senior enlisted representative. “I want to be able to answer questions for both Reserve and active duty and pass along the information that using the commissary is a great way for service members to save money.”

“I hope our patron council members will encourage their constituents to use their commissary benefit,” said Kaye Kennedy, chief of DeCA corporate communications. “How can anyone not want to save 30 percent or more on their grocery bill?”

DeCA Patron Council members can be contacted with customer questions or concerns through the DeCA web site feedback page at www.commissaries.com. “The new members have already agreed to participate,” said Kennedy. “This adds another dimension to DeCA’s commitment to two-way communication with customers.”